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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 5, 7 and 14 to 16 are pending.

Claims 1 to 5 and 7 are rejected and claims 14 to 16 are new. No claims are allowed.

1. The Abstract is objected to. It has been amended to place it in clear and concise language.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The indefinite language in these claims has been amended.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

3. Claims 1, 2 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,496,060). Anderson et al. describes a garment hanger support comprising a hanger bar 17 for supporting hangers 14A. The bar 17 comprises a main channel portion 18 with spaced apart struck-up brackets 20 forming horizontal slots 21. A locking cap 22 has holes 25 through a central web 24. Securing the hangers on the main channel 18 of the hanger bar 17 is by resting cap 22 on the hangers. Clips 26 that have previously been moved through the struck-up brackets 20 have an upwardly extending long arm portion 27 are received in the holes 25 in the cap 22. The long arm portions 27 are then bent into the position shown in Fig. 3 to lock the cap 22 to the bar 17 with the hangers captured there between.

In contrast, independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to set forth that the cover is draped over the clothes pole

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supporting clothes hangers. In this position, a front edge and a back edge of the cover are on opposite sides of the pole with respect to an apex of the cover. A strap extends about the clothes pole and has a distal end with one of a hook-and-loop type fastener. This end is secured to the cover to thereby sandwich the clothes hangers between the pole and the draping cover. In their amended form, independent claims 1 and 7 are neither anticipated by Anderson et al., nor obvious in light of this patent. One reason is that the prior art patent does not describe a cover that is drapable over a clothes pole as presently claimed. Anderson et al. also do not describe their garment hanger support as having a strap as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 7. The "strap means (33)" are not capable of extending about the pole, as in my presently claimed invention.

Accordingly, amended independent claims 1 and 7 are patentable over Anderson et al. Claim 2 is canceled.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

4. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. as applied to claims 1, 2 and 7 above, and further in view of Rifkin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,697,508). Claim 3 is canceled and claim 4 is allowable as hinging from a patentable base claim. For one, Rifkin et al. do not describe a cover that is drapable over a clothes pole, as set forth in amended independent claim 1.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

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5. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. as applied to claims 1, 2 and 7 above, and further in view of Simmerman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,887,727). Again, claim 5 is allowable as hinging from a patentable base claim. For one, Simmerman et al. do not describe a cover that is drapable over a clothes pole, as set forth in amended independent claim 1.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

6. New independent claim 16 is believed to be patentable over the cited prior art as being somewhat similar to amended independent claims 1 and 7. This claim further calls for the cover having first and second drapable cover portions that can be provided in an overlapping relationship with each other and are draped over a clothes pole. None of the cited patents teaches this claimed construction, nor would it have been obvious in light of the prior art.

It is believed that claims 1, 4 to 7 and 14 to 16 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully,


Donald Sahlem

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